



NEWS RELEASE

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MARCH 30, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE MORE KC MEN SENTENCED FOR CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE TWO KILOS OF COCAINE, 400 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that three co-defendants were sentenced in federal court today for their participation in a conspiracy to distribute two kilograms of cocaine and 400 pounds of marijuana in the Kansas City area.

Augustine. C. Aviles, 40, **Kevin C. Darks**, 49, and **Robert Lopez**, 28, all of Kansas City, were sentenced in separate appearances before U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith today. **Aviles** was sentenced to 15 years and one month in federal prison without parole. **Darks** was sentenced to 11 years and six months in federal prison without parole. **Lopez** was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 1, 2004, **Aviles** and **Darks** were convicted by a federal jury for conspiracy to distribute cocaine and marijuana in the metropolitan area between Oct. 8 and Nov. 13, 2003. **Lopez** was convicted for his role in the conspiracy to distribute marijuana. They were among eight co-defendants convicted in that trial, each of whom was also found guilty of possession with intent to distribute marijuana and illegally possessing one or more firearms during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime. **Aviles** and **Darks** were also found guilty of possession with intent to distribute cocaine.

This case resulted from a reverse sting operation, Graves said, in which an undercover law enforcement officer delivered two kilograms of cocaine and 400 pounds of marijuana to the defendants after they arranged for the purchase through a confidential informant.

The co-defendants waited at a warehouse until a truck, driven by an undercover law enforcement officer, arrived to deliver the cocaine and marijuana. After the defendants unloaded the truck, they were arrested, Graves said.

The remaining five co-defendants have already been sentenced. **Michael A. Aviles**, 45, of Kansas City, was sentenced on March 10, 2005, to 11 years and six months in federal prison without parole. **Henry M. Ruiz**, 38, of Kansas City, was sentenced on March 10, 2005, to 15 years in federal prison without parole. **Daniel F. Ramirez**, 29, of Kansas City, was sentenced on March 10, 2005, to 10 years in federal prison without parole. **Joseph Gonzales**, 25, of Kansas City, was sentenced on March 9, 2005, to 15 years in federal prison without parole. **Carl A. Chatman**, 29, of Kansas City, was sentenced on March 9, 2005, to 12 years in federal prison without parole.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. Ketchmark and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Wolesky. It was investigated by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow